

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Maine Women's Publications - All

Publications

6-1-1986

Inform - A Quarterly Newsletter for Maine Women (April-May 1986)

The Maine Commission for Women Staff

The Maine Commission for Women

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all



Part of the [Women's History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Staff, The Maine Commission for Women, "Inform - A Quarterly Newsletter for Maine Women (April-May 1986)" (1986). *Maine Women's Publications - All*. 380.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all/380

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Women's Publications - All by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

St. Docs.
W 84.2
In 3
1 April/May
1986
C 2

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE LIBRARIES
STATE OF MAINE
DOCUMENT DEPOSITORY

Inform

Published by The Maine Commission for Women

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The months of March and April seem to be particularly hectic for the Maine Commission for Women this year. As I write this we are in the midst of a second annual "Women's History Week Essay Contest"; working on a conference on the "Changing Workforce and Its Impact on the Economy" with the Governor and members of his cabinet; and, of course, are in the busiest (and most interesting) portion of the Legislative Session.

The Maine Commission for Women has given its support to eleven pieces of legislation this year (update inside) concentrated in the areas of child care, domestic violence and economic development. Thus far, this session is an interesting one since it is an election year. Unfortunately, but predictably, a fair amount of "posturing" takes place and issues occasionally get second billing. Still we have made significant progress in the three areas which MCW has given its concentration.

The Legislature, in general and the Appropriations Committee specifically, has been very responsive and sensitive to domestic violence issues. In the last several years the Legislature has funded educational assistance and direct service programs for victims of rape, incest and battering—a long way from society's inability or unwillingness to even talk about these issues. Again this year, the Appropriations Committee seems to be looking favorably on bills to create a Rape Crisis Center in Augusta and the development of a statewide, toll-free hotline.

In the area of child care, I believe we are just beginning to scratch the surface of understanding about how dramatically our workforce is changing. Statistics indicate there are more mothers in the labor market and there is a significant rise in the number of households headed by a single parent, all of which leads to the estimate that by 1990, 67% of all children will live in

households where all adults present work full time. These changes in our workforce have serious social implications which the Legislature understands and is trying to address. But the child care crisis also has a significant economic impact for individuals, families, private industry and the state. That child care is an economic issue and may, in fact, be a key factor in the future success of Maine's economy, is still an uncommon perspective.

The term economic development means many different things to people. For women economic development is a means to achieving economic equity: To get a decent entitlement on AFDC, to get adequate funds for training and education for welfare recipients, to maintain affirmative action efforts to provide access to quality jobs, to achieve pay equity once on the job, to have access to services and financial support for new business, and to have the support services (e.g. child care, transportation, flexible work hours) to make all of the above possible. The Legislature is certainly aware and responsive to the issues addressed above, but not often under guise of economic development. Often, women's economic needs are defined as "social service programs" and not as significant factors in Maine's economy. In order to continue toward economic prosperity, we must encourage the Legislature to view women's needs as part of economic development plans—not as social welfare. Some inroads are being made through the Welfare Employment and Training Program, the Job Start Fund, AFDC increases and the like, but we are far from experiencing a fundamental shift in attitude which would view women as partners in economic programs. We will only know how successful we have been when the final bell sounds, but progress is being made.

THE UNTOLD HERSTORY ON DISPLAY

The Maine Commission for Women utilized the opportunity of celebrating National Women's History Week by reserving a display case on the ground floor of the State House. During the entire month of March, thoughts of those passing by were stimulated by "The Untold Herstory."

The theme of the display was asserting the rights of women by reclaiming our heritage. It stated, "This series cannot represent the full extent of Women's History, but is an attempt to portray the dignity of women who sought, as individuals or as participants in a mass movement, to extend the horizons of women. Write women back into history."

Photos involved in the display were women dancers, politicians, mothers, teachers, musicians and others contributing as we do to build our communities and actuate our dreams. Adjacent to the photos were quotes from Alice Walker, Elizabeth Janeway, Helen Reddy, Carolyn Reed and many more.

The summary quote came from *Daughters of Copper Women* by Anne Cameron. "Look into your own herstory: What you need is in the stories of your sisters, mothers, aunts, grandmothers, foremothers. Search for it; then write it, sing it, paint it, dance it, and share it."

To study that range, to find dignity in the very "dailiness" of those lives, is to expose the hidden history of a culture.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From The Director	1
The Untold Herstory on Display	1
Talk With Me	2
International Women's Day	3
Maine Women in History	4
Women and Politics	4
Women and Education	5
Women and Reform	5
Women and Power	6
Legislative Update	6
Science and Math	7
Lost Facts	7
Women Events Calendar	7

TALKING WITH ME



(Interview and article by Sally Rose)

I turned off a secondary road onto a partially paved vein of the little community of Bowdoinham. As the road narrowed and became continuous dirt, I saw the name on the mailbox—Banks. I looked up to see a no-nonsense structure nestled in the woods. Here in this log cabin lives Judy Banks, and in approximately one more month, it will be the site of her new home business—**On The Line**—a telecommunications service. Judy described her business to me.

"I will be using a Syntrex Word Processor with Modem to streamline and provide for their professional needs. I will be able to provide self-employed professionals with letter-quality text, document transmission, information assembly, research assistance, TELEX and a variety of other services. I will be uncomplicating their professional lives with my automated services."

Maine is full of cottage industries of all types and in all imagineable locations; but the women behind this "new venture" makes this business certainly unique. Judy has been fighting pain, disillusionment and uncertainty for the past six years. At the age of 31, after a fairly traditional ten year adult female life, Judy faced a divorce and was diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis, which eventually caused her retirement on disability by age 35.

This is a story about a women whose life appeared to be coming to a screeching halt and how she struggled with determination to regain her dignity and self-sufficiency.

Judy graduated from a Massachusetts high school and began working in a traditional female job. After a short six months Judy realized she wanted more than what a secretarial job could offer so she enlisted in the Navy. In ten months of Navy training, Judy saw inequalities of expectations between the 20,000 male and 1500 female on-base enlistees. In her words, "These differences were too great for me to stomach"; she asked to be released from her enlistment. After talking with a Navy lawyer, she realized her only hope was to go AWOL and commit herself to a psychiatric hospital where she had to con-

vince authorities that she was determined not to continue as a Naval enlistee. Her determination gave her an honorable discharge and a chance to start again.

College became an appealing possibility so Judy began a study of the hard sciences that led her to a B.S. Degree in Animal Science from the University of Mass at Amherst. With this degree behind her, Judy continued as she says "accepting what male traditional expectations were" and pursuing secretarial jobs as she followed her husband's career around the country from the Northeast all the way to Minnesota.

"I allowed him to pursue his jobs because I couldn't define my exact wants professionally. I helped him get a new job by filling out the forms for him."

Judy had been working at a newspaper for 1½ years in Minnesota when her husband's work took him next to Louisiana. It was during this move, as Judy was preparing to join him in Louisiana, that she had her first attack of M.S. Judy said, "It was this first attack that let me realize what struggles women go through." The women she worked with at the paper in Deluth, Minnesota were mostly divorced, single mothers who, for Judy, were models of what can be accomplished inspite of being alone and dealing with hardships. The support of these women helped Judy through this original crisis.

After a short period in Louisiana, Judy found herself saying "no" to the next move her husband made. It was at this time also that Judy received a confirmed diagnosis of her M.S. What she didn't know then and does not know today is the progression of her disease. It could be a slow deterioration giving her many more years of self-sufficiency or her attacks could be more frequent causing an acceleration of the disease.

With only a small amount of information on her health, Judy moved from Louisiana to Maine accepting an assistant supervisory job with Farmers Home Administration in Bridgton. After two and a half years here Judy faced the decline in her ability to physically do her work. Rather than divulge her health condition to her employer for fear of "getting a handout of an easier job because I was a disabled woman," Judy chose to resign her job in 1983. After a short attempt at employment at the Naval base as a secretary, Judy had another attack that left her no stamina. She then realized full-time employment was not possible so devised a work sharing program at the base with several other women. When she approached the employment office with her suggestion, she was turned away. As unfair as she thought the decision was, she says, "I had no strength to fight it."

Judy feels this is the time when she

became the typical victim. She described her feelings to me.

"As a divorced woman, I felt guilt and failure. As a career woman I thought the inability to compete or succeed was my fault, and not MS since I still was in the denial stage of this illness. As a woman unable to do the routine (and once easy) household chores, I felt failure at fulfilling my feminine role as nurturer. All these contributed to my loss of self-esteem, feeling of being capable, and ability to have control over my life. I started being not only the 'victim' but also 'the poor woman'."

What happened? Judy reflected.

"I couldn't stand myself and I got MAD. In seeking an answer to 'what do I do to become whole again and start feeling good about myself' I asked for everyone's (friends, acquaintances, Maine Unemployment Office, Maine Vocational Rehabilitation Bureau, physicians, etc.) advice and expected them to provide me with the answer. Finally, I woke up—they have no answers, only opinions, it is up to me and me alone to find my own answer!"

"Over the next few months I decided I wanted to become self-sufficient, to regain control over my life and to do what I enjoyed."

Judy began to think in terms of starting her own business. Consideration of that possibility opened avenues to new kinds of assistance.

She noticed an ad in the paper announcing a pilot program called "New Ventures" which was being sponsored by the Displaced Homemakers Project in Bath. The program was being offered free of charge to women who qualified as hopeful entrepreneurs. Judy did not hesitate to attend the orientation session.

New Ventures had forty applicants respond to their initial publicity which was distributed to AFDC women, WEET program participants, Displaced Homemaker candidates, vocational educators, business organizations and the press. After the orientation session, there were individual interviews to determine the applicant's background and her resources. The forty applicants were reduced to twelve women who have remained in the program for its full ten weeks.

When I asked Judy how she connected with New Ventures, she explained:

"Oh, that was wonderful. It gave me a rude awakening. If I had started on my own, I would have fallen into failure. They are a concrete entity that I can look at. There is a strength at New Ventures from the speakers, the teachers, the other women in the group that is absorbed through the pores."

Judy talked about that strength and its relation to the women in the group.

"The hardest step is the first one because it is confusing to know where to go. But you can make the first step—that is not a commitment to anything. You can always refuse. It is taking the risk and women don't realize the risking they do all the time. Trusting some man to support them and their family—that is a big risk."

Judy described the class as a very diverse group of women, all ages and all backgrounds fighting feelings of 'I gave so much and look what happened to me.'

She continued:

"I think the biggest obstacle to women are themselves and they have to realize it is not their fault. It is from the day they were born. Women have to compromise so much, balance so much because of our approach as women. That approach is unique and they must believe that that difference can help them."

The Displaced Homemakers Project is presently looking for funding to run another ten-week session in April, May and June.

Judy is proof that the program can help women accomplish their business adventure goals.

As I sat at Judy's diningroom table, I looked up to the loft—the birthplace of **On The Line**. During the interview I asked Judy how she chose this particular line of business for herself.

"I asked myself this question. If worse came to worse, could I do this from my bed?"

Although the future is unpredictable and very possibly limited, Judy has convinced Maine Vocational Rehabilitation Bureau and the Small Business Association to give her the starting funds to launch her business. She has envisioned and structured a word processing and telecommunications service for self-employed professionals. Her goals are clear.

With the beauty of womanly determination, she ended the interview by saying, "I expect to be 'On the Line' by January 1st." I'm betting she will.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

(Continued from Page 1)

On a lighter note . . . one of the delights of the past few weeks has been receiving the essays and pictures for our contest. One teacher apparently did a wonderful session on non-traditional occupations and we received drawings of women electricians, construction workers, truck drivers, bankers and the like. One however, was a beautifully drawn picture of a women with the caption "Women Make the Best Maids" . . . Back to the drawing board—there is still much to be done.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: A HISTORY

For the last one hundred and twenty years women around the world have gathered and rallied for equality and justice on March 8—International Women's Day. A tradition started in the country in 1857 and officially named in 1910, it is only in the last decade that women in the United States have reclaimed this day of celebration and struggle.

On March 8, 1857, women garment workers staged a march and demonstration on the lower east side of New York protesting their low wages, long hours and poor working conditions. Their wages were so low that many were starving. A 55 to 60 hour work week was common, with no time off for meals. Factories were dangerous, unsanitary, and poorly lighted.

Continuing in this fighting tradition, on March 8, 1908, thousands of women marched again from the Lower East Side to demand the right to vote, to urge the strengthening of the new and struggling needle-trades unions and to demand equal pay for equal work. At the rally, a speaker demanded that a day be set aside each year as Women's Day. They again protested the dangerous sweatshops where conditions led to the tragic Triangle Fire in 1911. These women kindled the sparks that set off the largest strike of women in American history, called the Uprising of the 20,000.

In 1910 at an international meeting of socialists in Copenhagen, delegates from the U.S. women's groups called on the women of the world to unite in the struggle for better conditions including suffrage for all women. Clara Zetkin, A German leader, proposed that March 8 be set aside as International Women's Day in commemoration of the New York women's struggles. Under her leadership the first International Women's Day celebration was held in Copenhagen that year.

As the number of women and countries that celebrated International Women's Day grew, so did the demands that were put forth.

"Although Women's Day was established for the special purpose of demonstrating support of the political enfranchisement of women other demands were also put forth and other political and social questions. It was the struggle against the increased cost of living, the demand for motherhood and assistance, for women's and children's labor legislation, as well as the cry 'Down with Militarism' that has constituted the Women's Day program in different years."

(Alexandra Kolontai—International Women's Day)

In the U.S. in 1917 International Women's Day was organized as a mass protest against World War I and American women took to the street demanding peace, suffrage and food. Between 1917 and 1970 only a few celebrations were held in the U.S. to commemorate March 8, but with the advent of the women's movement in the late 60's women's organizations began to "reclaim" March 8.

On March 8, 1975, over 5000 women and men marched down Fifth Avenue in New York City demanding equal pay for equal work, ratification of the ERA, child care, safe working conditions, quality health care and jobs. Over 50 organizations had joined to bring about this march and many similar actions across the country. This organizing effort proved to be a turning point in our celebration of women's history.

Today, the U.S. Congress and the Maine State Legislature proclaim the week including March 8 "Women's History Week" and in many states the entire month of March is devoted to learning about women's history.

This year women celebrated International Women's Day at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., to demand that a new national agenda be set consisting of the following: No U.S. intervention, stopping the arms race, and a federal budget which provides the necessities of life without race, sex, or age discrimination. Women spoke out at the Capitol on March 8 to create their own International Bill of Rights and Bill of Wrongs and to lobby their Senators and Representatives. Also, in Washington on Saturday, March 10, there was a Multicultural Forum where workshops and speakers will address the accomplishments of women from around the world in labor and environmental struggles.

Certainly the celebration of women's contribution to our society and the demand for social, political and economic equality should not be restricted to one day, one week or even one month a year. March 8 can, however, be a time to remember our foremothers, celebrate our achievements, and recommit ourselves to all that still must be done to achieve equality.



MAINE WOMEN IN HISTORY

(Sources: *Woman's Place... The Maine Point of View* by Susan Ostroff; and *Women of Maine* by Lee Agger).

Women on the Seas

Mary Brown Patten

Mary A. Brown, born in 1837, was 16 when she married Joshua A. Patten on April 1, 1853. Joshua Patten was a 24-year old native of Rockland, Maine. Two years later, Joshua Patten became captain of a 216-foot clipper, Neptune's Car. When Mary Brown Patten went on her first voyage with her husband, he taught her navigation and other duties required to guide a ship of that size. On this first voyage, Joshua noted in his logbook: "Mrs. Patten is uncommon handy about the ship, even in weather, and would doubtless be of service if a man."

Neptune's Car, with Joshua Patten at the helm, left New York in July, 1856 sailing for San Francisco. Since 1849 when gold had been discovered, many people were anxious to hurry to California. According to Mitchell Wilson in *American Science and Invention*, "As lovely as the ships were, Americans knew the conditions of the crews were a national disgrace." The work was hard, the pay low, and crew members were frequently resentful of being aboard even if their presence was voluntary. The first mate, Tarker, was trouble from the beginning of this voyage. The New York Tribune later stated that the first mate "slept during half of his watch on the quarterdeck and that he kept the ship under reefed course. After repeated warnings, Captain Patten removed him." This was significant because usually if the Captain of a ship became ill the first mate would take over for him.

Captain Patten collapsed with a terrible headache as Neptune's Car approached Cape Horn. He fell blind with "brain fever." Its symptoms included alternate periods of blindness and deafness or complete unconsciousness, followed by spells of manic raving. When this occurred, the first mate had already been put in irons for subordination and neglect of duty. The second mate, Mr. Hare, was an able officer but had no knowledge of navigation. The first mate demanded that he be released and given command. Mary sent word to the first mate that since her husband couldn't trust the mate when he was well, she had no intention of trusting him while the Captain was ill. Mary then informed the second mate she was assuming command. The New York Daily Tribune later reported that she "... now took observations, worked up the reckonings by chronometer time, laid the ship's course and performed the other duties of captain." For the next 50 days not only did Mary Brown Patten navigate a fully rigged ship through wind and storm and stand her watches; she also used every possible moment to care for Joshua. She did not undress for 50 nights and for one 48-hour period she never left the quarterdeck.

During all this time Mrs. Patten was carrying a secret that she tried to hide under the loose oilskins that she wore on deck, but the crew knew that she was pregnant. On March 10, 1857 she gave birth to a son named Joshua Adams Patten. Captain Patten never fully recovered from the voyage and soon after the birth of their son he died. Mary Brown Patten died four years later

after contracting typhoid, then tuberculosis. Their son, Joshua, was taken to live in Rockland with his grandparents.

There is a hospital named for Mary Brown Patten on the grounds of the Merchant Marine Training Center at King's Point, New York.



MARY BROWN PATTEN. (Courtesy of Merchant Marine Training Academy, King's Point, New York).

Women and Politics

Women began talking about their right to vote as early as 1820; however, the battle began with the first national women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 and lasted for **72 years**—until women were allowed to vote in 1920.

There was opposition from the very beginning. The right to vote was only the **ninth** resolution passed at the first women's rights convention and it was the only resolution at the convention not to be unanimously adopted.

In 1854 Susan B. Anthony spoke in Bangor about women's suffrage (the right to vote). Susan B. Anthony introduced the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Congress in 1868.

The first women's suffrage group officially formed in Maine was in Rockland by Lavinia and Mary Snow in 1868. From 1870 on, petitions "for the rights to suffrage" were regularly presented to the Maine legislature and the bill was regularly "given

leave to withdraw." In 1873 a convention was called in Augusta to form a statewide organization called the Maine Woman Suffrage Association (MWSA). By-laws were drafted and officers elected from Augusta, Bangor, Rockland, Portland, Bath, Dexter, Fryeburg, Lewiston and Vassalboro. Several resolutions were passed including a resolution that women should have the right to vote.

By the 1890's suffrage clubs had been organized in Augusta, Saco, Waterville, Hampden, Old Orchard, Skowhegan, Auburn; and Machias. According to accounts at the time, there were approximately 15,000 women in 239 Maine towns and cities paying taxes on an estimated \$25 million worth of property. That these tax-paying women could not vote was promoted as "taxation without representation." The bill for the vote lost in the House by a three-to-one margin and in the Senate by one vote; however, women of the time felt progress was being made.

Isabel Whittier Greenwood

Isabel Whittier Greenwood of Farmington (married to Chester Greenwood, the inventor of the earmuff) organized the Franklin County Equal Suffrage Association in 1906.

The Men's Equal Suffrage League of Maine was formed in 1914.

In 1917 the MWSA decided to go to the voters with a referendum. The election took place in September 1917, and the referendum lost by 18,154 votes, a nearly two to one defeat.

During this time U.S. Congress passed the 19th Amendment in the summer of 1919, and Maine acted favorably on the amendment in November of 1919. On August 26, 1920 full voting rights for women became the law of the land.

Three days later, Isabel Greenwood and her workers gathered in Farmington and voted to change their name to the Auxiliary of the Maine League of Women Voters.

Women and Education

At the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, New York in 1848, one of the most "outrageous" demands issued was for equal access to higher education. The majority of American women received no more than a grade school education until the 1900's. Reading, writing and a little "ciphering" were considered sufficient. However, as early as 1831, young ladies from families that could and would finance a private education could go to Westbrook College for two years and earn a "Ladies of Liberal Learning."

It was not until 1865 that Bates College in Brunswick accepted women, nine years after it was founded. Chartered in 1813, Colby College did not go coed until 1871. The University of Maine, founded as an agricultural school in 1865 at Orono, did not become coeducational until seven years later in 1872.

When America first became committed to educating children in free public schools, the need for instructors was great. Women were encouraged to become teachers as long as they were willing to work for wages lower than those paid to men. Most 19th century school boards felt that 30 to 50 percent less pay for women was an appropriate wage.

Kate Furbish

Kate Furbish's education was not obtained through formal schooling but was obtained through determination and interest, the only way in which many women were able to receive an education at that time. Shortly after her birth in 1834, Kate Furbish moved to Brunswick, Maine where

she was raised. Kate was only 12 years old when she began to study the local plants around Brunswick having been encouraged and taught by her father. Her interest in botany was heightened in 1860 by a series of lectures given in Boston by George L. Goodale, who later became a professor of botany at Harvard. In 1873 she inherited some money at her father's death from which she began her life's work: Collecting, classifying, and recording in watercolor drawings the flora of Maine. For the next thirty-five years of her life she traveled throughout Maine searching for new specimens and categorizing by location already-known plants. A great deal of her pioneer botanical work was done in Aroostook County. In a lecture before the Portland Society of Natural History in 1883, she related her most memorable summers (1880 and 1881) spent in the largely untouched bogs and marshlands of Aroostook County: "The stories about men who have gone into these swamps and never been seen afterwards would deter the timid from making the venture, but I found no skeletons, had no misgivings, and in ways enjoyed surmounting every obstacle which presented itself."

Physically, Kate Furbish was a tiny woman, but she never allowed her small size to deter her. She once told an audience, "I know no fear, I become absorbed in my work and often give anxiety to those with whom I board." When she was scolded once for being late, she matter-of-factly explained: "... I saw some water plants which I needed and it took me three hours to build a raft."

Her accuracy and inclusiveness of her work came to be highly regarded by pro-

fessionals in her field. She founded the Josselyn Botanical Society of Maine in 1895 and later was to become president of the organization in 1911. She wrote several articles for the *American Naturalist* and lectured to interested groups.

In 1908 Kate Furbish gave 16 large folio volumes of her watercolor drawings of plant specimens to Bowdoin College. Her 4,000 sheet collection of dried plants was given to the New England Botanical Club. This collection is housed at the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University.

Perhaps her most notable achievement is her two new plant discoveries that bear her name—**Pedicularis Furbishiae** (also known as the Furbish lousewort) and **Aster Cordifolius L. var. Furbishiae**—both native to Aroostook County.

Kate Furbish died in 1931 at the age of 98, and was buried in Pine Grove Cemetery in Brunswick, Maine.



KATE FURBISH. (Courtesy of Maine Historical Society).

Women and Reform

Dorothea L. Dix

Dorothea L. Dix was born in Hampden, Maine on April 4, 1802. As a young woman she opened a "dame school" in Boston. At 22, Dorothea Dix was forced to give up teaching because of exhaustion and tuberculosis. For the next ten years she traveled, teaching when her health permitted, and writing when she was not well enough to teach.

One day a Harvard divinity student asked her to teach a Sunday school class for women being held at the East Cambridge jail. On March 28, 1841 she delivered her first lesson. After she finished the lesson she asked the jailer to give her a tour of the prison. In a small, smelly, ice-cold room she found half a dozen women. Their "crime": insanity. Outraged, she demanded to know why they had no heat. The jailer replied that "lunatics don't know heat from cold. Besides they might set themselves afire."

She researched the topic and found that in general if you were poor and insane in 1841, you were kept under lock and key by

your family. If they could not afford to feed you, you would be put in prison at the local jail or poorhouse.

Dorothea Dix conducted a survey that was to last a year and a half. She began a personal investigation of every jail and poorhouse in Massachusetts. She found examples of cruelty and neglect: "Confinement... in cages closets, cellars, stalls, pens! Chained, naked, beaten with rods and lashed into obedience."

In 1843 she prepared a 30-page "memorial" which was introduced to the Massachusetts State legislature by her friend, Samuel Gridley Howe, because women were not permitted to speak in public. The document named places where mentally ill people were being mistreated. This caused an uproar and after weeks of debates in the newspapers, in public and private meetings, and in the legislature, funds were appropriated to expand hospital facilities to treat the mentally ill.

Because of her success in Massachusetts she moved on to Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey using the same methods as before. Her work

paid off and after an initial battle the New Jersey legislature in 1844-45 established a state hospital for the mentally ill at Trenton. In 1845 she wrote **Remarks on Prisons and Prison Discipline in the United States**, which suggested basic reforms be made such as prisoners be separated by type of offense and that educational opportunities be offered.

On June 27, 1848 she presented a "Memorial to the Congress of the United States," asking that five million acres of public land be put in trust to benefit the nation's mentally ill. For six years she fought for the bill and finally, in 1854, both the House and Senate approved the land bill, but President Franklin Pierce vetoed it.

Disappointed, Dorothea Dix went to Europe to rest.

Dorothea returned to the United States in 1854 and resumed her work with state legislatures. She continued her work until she retired at the age of 79.

Dorothea L. Dix played a direct role in the founding of 32 state hospitals. Even though her birthplace has disappeared, there is a memorial park in Hampden dedicated to her.

CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND POWER

A major conference on "Women and Power" will be held on the Gorham Campus of the University of Southern Maine June 5 to 8.

The Conference will celebrate the accomplishments of the last 20 years of the women's movement, examine the beliefs and values that have shaped those activities, and explore directions for the future.

Speakers will include: Johnnella Butler, chair of Afro-American Studies, Smith College, Janet Gallagher, director of Civil Liberties and Public Policy at Hampshire College, and board member of Catholics for a Free Choice; Gloria Anzaldua, Editor of "This Bridge Called My Back: Writing by Radical Women of Color"; Chrystos, Native American poet; Barbara MacDonald, Author of "Look Me in the Eye: Old Women, Aging, and Agism"; Lois Reckitt, vice president of the National Organization for Women; Carter Heyward, author of "Our Passion for Justice," Episcopal priest and professor at Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The workshops range from spiritual exploration to case studies of social change, including rituals and values, oppression and the quality of life, images for a spiritual journey, case studies of alternative health care, creativity and power in the visual arts, models of successful change.

Some specific titles include: Christian Base Communities and Empowerment; Twenty Years of NOW: What Have We Learned?; Shaping Economic Justice; Ethics and Ambiguity in the Political Arena; Low Income Women and Power; Resolving Conflicts in the Abortion Controversy; Incest, Power, and Forgiveness; Lesbian Perspectives on the "Good Society"; and Feminist Philosophies of Sports.

Although the Conference has drawn on leaders from many parts of the country, Maine is significantly represented. Among Maine women who will speak at the Conference are: Libby Mitchell, Beverly Bustin, Kay Gardner, Dale McCormick, Dr. Lynn Bolles, Betsy Sweet, Vendean Vafiades and Judy Guay.

The Conference is sponsored by the Feminist Spiritual Community of Portland, Displaced Homemakers Network of Maine, and the Women's Forum of the University of Southern Maine. It is supported in part by a major grant from the Maine Humanities Council.

For further information please call or write: Feminist Spiritual Community, 9 Deering Street, Portland, 04104 (207) 773-2294.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—112th LEGISLATURE

As we go to print there is approximately one month left of the Second Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. Most of the bills that the MCW has supported have had their public hearing and are waiting for final action by the Committee that heard it. The bills which would require funding from the state must "sit" on the Appropriations table until the last few days of the session. At that point the Appropriations Committee will look at all the bills which require funding, determine the availability of funds, and decide which bills will be funded. What follows is a list of where legislation stands as of 3/12. Near the end of the session the status of bills changes daily—even hourly. If you want the latest information, please call the MCW office at 289-3417.

LD	TITLE	CURRENT STATUS
1793	AN ACT to Create a Rape Crisis Center in Augusta	Out of committee unanimous ought to pass. Has passed both House and Senate. Must go to Appropriations Table.
1826	AN ACT to Increase the Maine Child Care Credit Under the State of Maine Income Tax.	Passed out of the Taxation Committee unanimous ought to pass. Now on the Appropriations Table.
1864	AN ACT to Encourage Employers . . . to Assist their Employees in Meeting their Child Care Needs and Expenses.	Waiting for Work Session
1872	AN ACT to Change Martin Luther . . . King Day from a Special Obser- vance Day to a State Holiday	Has Been engrossed by House and Senate with a fiscal note of \$150,000 attached and sent to the Appropriations Table.
1876	AN ACT to Insure Training and Employment Opportunities for all AFDC Recipients (WEET)	Was part of Governor's package. Will be held until end of session before funding decision is made.
1888	AN ACT to Fund Long-Term Care Budget for Maine's Elderly, Handicapped and At-Risk Citizens Who Need Support and Health Services.	Bill itself was withdrawn. Funding was included in Governor's budget for home based health care. \$900,000.
1896	AN ACT To Increase the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Standard of Need	Was Part of Governor's budget. Will be held until end of session before a funding decision is made.
1907	AN ACT to Improve Access to Child Care Services	In work Sessions. On Appropriations Committee
1966	AN ACT to Guarantee Insurance . . . Coverage for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Providers Licensed by the State.	Not yet scheduled.
2003	AN ACT to Establish a Toll free Statewide Hot Line for Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.	Passed unanimously out of committee. Now on Appropriations Table.
2006	AN ACT Making Appropriations from the General Fund	This is the Governor's Part II Budget. Included in this are the WEET bill, Family Planning Bill, AFDC increase, and the Elderly Long Term Care Bill.
2061	AN ACT to Amend the Regulation . . . of the Practice of Nursing.	Public Hearing held 3/5. Now in Work session.
2063	AN ACT to Protect the Public Health in Relation to AIDS	Hearing was held 3/17
2124	AN ACT to Provide Community Education and Family Health Services.	Hearing was held 3/13



CONFERENCE TO RAISE YOUNG WOMEN'S INTEREST IN SCIENCE AND MATH

Young women entering grades 7 through 12 in the state of Maine are invited to a special conference, "Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics," on a Saturday in mid June, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Westbrook College in Portland. There are three basic goals of these conferences:

- * To increase young women's interest in mathematics and science
- * To foster awareness of career opportunities for women in math and science related fields
- * To provide students an opportunity to meet and form personal contacts with women working in traditionally male occupations.

Similar conferences will be held nationwide. Young women from junior and senior high schools throughout the country will attend annual "Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics" career education conferences this spring. The students and about 2,500 parents, teachers and counselors will gather on 63 college and university campuses across the United States.

"Hands-On" workshops, lively panel presentations, and career information discussions by women in math and science-based careers are featured at the "Expanding Your Horizons" conferences. Female engineers, electricians, physicists, computer scientists, carpenters, geologists, and architects participate as conference planners as well as role models. They discuss their work in detail, create problem-solving activities, and answer questions about their educational preparation and the importance of high school math and science courses.

This will be the first time "Expanding Your Horizons" conference for young women has been offered in the State of Maine. Nearly 50 women who have pursued careers involving science and mathematics expertise will lead workshops and discussions designed to increase student interest in those fields. Students will have an opportunity to meet and form per-

sonal contacts with women working as chemists, computer scientists, biologists, engineers, geologists, business women, health science professionals, and politicians.

Dr. Roberta Sylvia, scientist and education specialist, will welcome participants and introduce the keynote speaker. In a panel discussion "Non-traditional Careers for Women," professional women will describe their work day, their school experience, and their home life. Students will then have an opportunity to ask questions. Dozens of morning and afternoon workshops are being organized for women entering the 7th, 8th and 9th grades and for those entering the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. Each workshop will be headed by professionals in that particular field.

Morning workshops will offer hands-on activities in science and math, such as identification of common substances; "Getting to Know Your Friendly Computer"; and math games. After lunch, participants will break into groups for career discussions. Special workshops are being planned for parents and teachers on "Funding Post-secondary Education"; "Organizing a Conference Like This"; as well as continuous showing of videotapes including: "Nothing But Options" and "Math Anxiety: We Overcame It, So Can You."

A nominal fee of \$10 or less will be charged to help defray costs of lunch, snacks, and facilities. Brochures with registration forms will be available by the last week in April when they will be mailed to the schools and sent with "Inform." Interested students and their teachers or parents can call either Co-chair for registration forms. Individuals and businesses interested in supporting this conference in the State of Maine may make tax-deductible contributions of funds or in-kind services in the name of the Math/Science Network.

Co-chair addresses: Dr. Roberta L. Sylvia, 10 Carmichael Ave., Falmouth 04105 (781-4116); Catherine VanDyke, Director, Maine Career Education Consortium, State House Station #71, Augusta 04333 (289-2331).

WOMEN IN HISTORY: LOST FACTS

Research has shown that in current history textbooks less than 11% of images and references to specific persons deal with women. With this in mind, the following list of perhaps unknown facts proves interesting.

In 1939, what famous Black opera singer from Farmington, Maine was barred from singing in Washington's Constitution Hall because of her race? 75,000 people came to hear her sing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, instead.

Marion Anderson (1902-)

Who founded Bethune-Cookman College, established the National Council of Negro Women, and served as official advisor on minority affairs to President Franklin D. Roosevelt?

Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955)

Who was arrested for wearing trousers on the street even though she had received the Congressional Medal of Honor for her work as an Army Surgeon during the Civil War? (Her medal was withdrawn when she became involved in the suffrage movement).

Dr. Mary Walker (1832-1919)

What 16-year-old made a rain-drenched, 40-mile midnight ride on horseback in 1777 to warn of the British march on rebel supplies at Danbury, Connecticut?

Sybil Ludington (1761-1839)

What Jewish poet wrote the famous poem now on the base of the Statue of Liberty?

Emma Lazarus (1849-1887)

What woman was invited to teach nuclear physics at Princeton University, even though no female students were allowed to study there?

Chien Shiung Wu (1912-)

Who was the 17-year-old sculptor for whom President Lincoln posed, and who later sculpted the statue of him now in the Capitol Rotunda?

Vinnie Ream (1847-1914)

Women's

Events

Calendar

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

Looking Up

Feminist
Spiritual
Community

EVENT TITLE

The Gathering

Women and
Power Conference

DATE AND TIME

May 17
8:00-4:00

June 5-8

LOCATION

Civic Center

Univ. of
Southern Maine

COST

-0-

Sliding
Scale

FOR FURTHER INFO. CALL

293-2750

733-2294

ADDRESS CHANGE OR ADDITION? PLEASE LET US KNOW!

- ☐ Change of address
☐ Please send Inform to person listed below

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____

MAINE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

April 1986

F. Celeste Branham, Lewiston
Yolanda Bulley, Millinocket
Patti Bourgoïn, Augusta
Gena Canning, Portland
Kristina Caraganis-Gordon, Waterville
Mary Cathcart, Bangor
Joanne D'Arcangelo, Portland
Joanne Clarey, Portland
Gwen Gatcomb, Winthrop
Caroline Gentile, Presque Isle
Evelyn Greenlaw, Lewiston
Stephanie Irvine, Blue Hill
Ruth Joseph, Waterville
Wendy Kindred, Fort Kent
Stephanie Locke, Dover-Foxcroft
Julie Motherwell, Falmouth

EVENTS CALENDAR

If your organization is planning an event, of particular interest to women, send us a sheet containing the information listed below. All information received 4 weeks prior to publication of Inform, will be printed in each issue.

ALSO, while planning an event, if you want to check a date to avoid conflicting with other happenings, call the MCW at 289-3417.

DATE (list first, please), Event, sponsoring organization, who/where to call/write for further information and no more than three standard lines of event description.

Inform Staff:

Betsy Sweet
Peg Ricker
Sally Rose

Contributing Author

Patti Bourgoïn

MAINE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
STATE HOUSE STATION 93
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333